

A<sup>1</sup> arranged to form interstices; and

a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable.

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15. (Amended) The belt of claim 1, wherein the fluid is a liquid.

A<sup>2</sup> 16. (Amended) A belt for a material web producing machine, comprising:

a plurality of long-chain strength supports arranged to form interstices;

a filler at least partially filling the interstices; and

beadlike protuberances located at peripheral regions of the belt.

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25. (Amended) A process for producing a belt, comprising:

A<sup>3</sup> forming a sheet from a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material, the sheet comprising a plurality of interstices disposed between the long-chain strength supports; and

filling at least a portion of the interstices with a filler, whereby the sheet is made fluid impermeable.

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39. (Amended) A sealing belt for a dryer in a machine for producing a material web, comprising:

A<sup>4</sup> a flexible woven metal screen;

the woven metal screen comprising metal filaments running in a longitudinal direction, the metal filaments crossing one another so as to form interstices; and

a filler which at least partially fills the interstices to form a fluid impermeable screen.

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AS 43. (Amended) A process for producing a belt, comprising:

forming a sheet from a plurality of metal filaments running in a longitudinal direction,

the sheet comprising a plurality of interstices disposed between filaments;

disposing metal filaments perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and within the interstices;

filling at least a portion of the interstices with a plastic filler;

scraping a portion of the filler from at least one surface of the sheet to expose the metal filaments;

curing the filler; and

grinding the at least one surface.

*Please enter the following new claim for consideration by the Examiner:*

AC ---44. The belt of claim 39, wherein, on at least one surface of said belt, at least a portion of said metal filaments are exposed.---

**REMARKS**

***Summary of the Amendment***

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 15, 16, 25, 39, and 43 will have been amended, claims 14 and 38 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claim 44 will have been entered for consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 1 - 13, 15 - 37, and 39 - 44 currently remain pending.